

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings and versions of claim in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A packaged decorated composite frozen confection product comprising:

an open-ended shell made of a solid, fat-based composition and having a shell wall that defines an interior volume for holding at least a portion of an ice confection therein, the shell wall having a substantially smooth outer surface;

a decorative pattern design forming a portion of the smooth surface outer wall, said pattern design comprising strings of a first semi-solid confection material that form a mesh of strings and a second confection material of a contrasting color to that of the first confection material located between the strings;

a packaging sleeve for protecting all or part of the outer surface of the shell, with the packaging sleeve formed in a shape that corresponds to the desired shape of the outer surface of the shell and having an inner surface that is in contact with the outer surface of the shell to form and display the pattern; and

a filling of a frozen confection at least in the interior volume of the shell.

2. (Currently Amended) The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 1, wherein the strings are flattened or pressed against the sleeve to assist in forming the smooth surface outer wall of the shell.

3. (Original) The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 1, wherein the shell has a consistent and even wall thickness and the outside surface is shiny.

4. (Original) The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 1, wherein after removal of the packaging sleeve, the shell may be handled with the frozen filling at least initially maintaining the fat-based composition in solid form with good definition of the patterned design.

5. (Currently Amended) The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 1, wherein the packaging sleeve includes a transparent section that is positioned to show the pattern and the entire outer surface of the shell is in contact with the packaging sleeve.

6. (Original) The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 5, wherein the shell has a conical shape with an apex and a bottom portion of packaging sleeve close to the apex is transparent.

7. (Currently Amended) The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 5, wherein the entire packaging sleeve is transparent, and the entire outer surface of the shell is in contact with the packaging sleeve.

8. (Original) The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 1, wherein the fat-based composition comprises chocolate.

9. (Original) The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 1, wherein the decorative pattern design includes lines, a writing, a logo or a symbol.

10. (Original) The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 1, wherein the frozen confection comprises ice cream or a sorbet and the pattern is a fat that has a color that contrasts with that of the fat-based composition of the shell.

Claims 11. to 24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 1, wherein the open-ended shell has the shape of a true or truncated cylinder, polygon, or cone.

26. (Previously Presented) The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 25, wherein portions of the cone have different circumferences.

27. (Previously Presented) The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 25, wherein the frozen confection extends above the top of the shell so that the frozen confection can be consumed before the shell.

28. (Previously Presented) The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 1, wherein the strings are made of a fat-based material or a fat-based ink, optionally containing artificial colors, colored powders, or dyes that are fat soluble or fat dispersible.

29. (Currently Amended) The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 28, wherein the packaging sleeve is made of a food grade flexible, clear plastic foil having a smooth surface to fully show the pattern through the packaging sleeve.

30. (Previously Presented) The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 1, wherein the frozen confection that constitutes the filling or center of the shell volume is an ice cream or sorbet, optionally aerated to provide a similar texture to that of an ice cream.

31. (Previously Presented) The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 1, wherein the shell further comprises inclusions in the form of nuts, chocolate chips, sugar confectionery particles, preserved fruit, mint chips, or biscuit crumbles.

32. (Previously Presented) The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 1, wherein the sleeve is configured to be longer than the height of the shell and frozen confection, and the package is completed by the addition of a lid, which optionally may be transparent.

33. (Previously Presented) The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 32, which further comprises printed material in the form of stickers or other packaging adornments that are present on the sleeve or lid.